St John the Baptist Catholic Church Parnell

Sunday Mass Times (Winter timetable): Saturday 5 pm & Sunday 9.30 am.
No 7 am Mass May–August. Saturday 9 am Mass & 9.30 am Reconciliation.
Public holidays 9 am. No weekday Masses until further notice.

Parish Priest: Father Stephen Berecz. Email sberecz@gmail.com
Parish Secretary: Nathaniel Hood. Phone (09) 373 3132. Email: office@parnellcatholic.org.nz
www.parnellcatholic.org.nz

Parking in St John's Carpark

Many have noticed an increase in parking infringements since AT rolled out their no. plate recognition cameras. Those attending Sunday or weekday Mass do not need to pay if using St John's carpark. On a Sunday you may leave your car in the carpark for 1 hr after Mass without payment (till 11.30 am). Cars left longer could be towed away. On weekday/Saturday mornings, you have 15 mins after Mass.

Safe Church: Safeguarding

As Catholics we believe that every person is created in the likeness and image of God. Therefore, we continue to ensure that our parish is a place where everyone is treated with respect and dignity. We foster an environment which is welcoming, and in which all our parish whānau, including our tamariki, rangatahi, kuia and kaumātua, feel safe. If you have any complaints or concerns, our Safeguarding Co-ordinator is Nathaniel Hood and you can contact him by phone 373 3132 or email office@parnellcatholic.org.nz. You may also contact the National Office for Professional Standards 0800-114-662. You may also contact the police 111.

Upcoming Safeguarding workshop

Lisa-May, safeguarding co-ordinator for the Catholic Diocese of Auckland, is holding a workshop at the Cathedral of St Patrick & St Joseph, 43 Wyndam Street, on Wednesday 5th August at 7 pm. Any parish volunteers who have yet to attend a workshop are encouraged to join. Contact the parish office for more info: office@parnellcatholic.org.nz

Monte Cecilia Housing Trust

supports whānau who are struggling with housing challenges, including those living in overcrowded or unhealthy conditions such as garages. Our Sustaining Tenancies team also helps families in private rentals who are at risk of losing their homes, working with landlords & tenants to find solutions that keep whānau housed & supported. To learn more, visit www.montececilia.org.nz or call 0800 624 848.

St Vincent de Paul Society Foodbank

Our parish welcomes your donations of non-perishable goods & personal care items. The donations basket is located on the left side of the main entrance as you go inside the church. Thank you for your kindness & generosity. Contact the SVDP Food Support team: Phone: 0800 680 090/815 6122. Email: foodbank@svdpak.org.nz

Youth & Young Adult Ministry

www.facebook.com/AKCYM
Contact Sam Brebner samb@cda.org.nz

Catholic University Ministry

To find out more about what's going on for Catholic tertiary students in Auckland, please contact Daniel Story at daniels@cda.org.nz & check out instagram.com/aucklandcatholicstudents/

Mass: Deaf Friendly

— 12 noon, 2nd Sunday each month. Followed by shared lunch (BYO). Poynton Room, 30 New St, Ponsonby. NZSL adapted.

— 9.30am 4th Sunday each month. Good Shepherd Parish, Telford Street, Balmoral. NZSL interpreter present. www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/discipleship/deaf-ministry

No cash but keen to donate?

Donations to the Parish should be to this account:

Acc. name: St John the Baptist Parnell Ecclesiastical Goods Trust

Account №: 02 0108 0705969 000

Set up through online banking or visit your nearest branch.

Register with the Parish for receipt.



Parish of St John the Baptist Parnell

"Prepare a way for the Lord."

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time—2nd August 2026

The account of the feeding of the five thousand in Matthew' Gospel this week is one of the most beloved miracles in the Gospels. At first glance, it reveals the compassion of Jesus, who sees the needs of the crowd and refuses to send them away hungry. Yet this passage is much more than a story about physical nourishment. It points beyond itself to the mystery of the Eucharist and the life of the Church.

The evangelist tells us that Jesus took the five loaves and two fish, looked up to heaven, blessed them, broke them, and gave them to the disciples for distribution. These actions are strikingly familiar. The language is heavily influenced by the ritual language of the celebration of the Eucharist in the early Church. "Taking the bread," "raising the eyes to heaven," "saying the blessing," "breaking," and distributing the bread all describe the eucharistic ritual. The early Christian community therefore understood this miracle not simply as a wondrous feeding but as a sign that prefigured the Eucharist.

In the Eucharist, Christ continues to feed his people. Just as the crowd gathered around Jesus in a deserted place, so the Church gathers around the altar seeking nourishment for the journey of faith. The disciples were asked to offer what little they had, and Jesus transformed it into an abundance. Likewise, we bring our limited gifts, strengths, and resources to the Lord, trusting that he can multiply them for the good of others.

The twelve baskets left over remind us that God's generosity exceeds all human expectations. There is always more than enough grace, mercy, and love in Christ. The Eucharist is not a sign of scarcity but of divine abundance.

This Gospel challenges us to trust in God's providence and to participate in Christ's mission of feeding the hungry, both physically and spiritually. As we gather at the Eucharistic table, we remember that the same Lord who fed the multitude continues to nourish his Church and sends us forth to share his blessings with the world.

—Fr Stephen Berecz

Liturgy of the Word

Isaiah 55:1–3 Come, buy and eat!
Psalm 144 (145):8–9, 15–18 The hand of the Lord feeds us; he answers all our needs.
Romans 8:35, 37–39 Nothing in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Matthew 14:13–21 All ate and were filled.

Next weekend: 1 (3) Kgs 19:9, 11–3; Ps 84 (85):7–8b, 9–13; Rom 9:1–5; Mat 14:22–33.

Presiding Priest this Sunday

Sat 5 p.m.	Fr Stephen Berecz
Sun 9.30	Fr Stephen Berecz

Mass Times this week in Parnell

Sat	9 a.m.

Reconciliation Times this week in Parnell

Sat	9.30 a.m.

St Michael's Remuera Parish Mass Times this week

Sun	8 a.m., 10 a.m., 5 p.m.
Mon–Fri	7 a.m., 12 noon
Sat	8 a.m.

Altar servers needed in our Parish

If your son or daughter would like to serve at the altar for Mass, please speak to sacristan Peter Lye, or enquire at the Parish Office. Full training & support will be provided.

Parish Coordinator

St Joseph & Joachim Parish in Ōtāhuhu is seeking a capable & motivated individual to join the team as a Parish Coordinator. This is a p/t role of 20 hrs/week, working Tue–Fri 9–2.30 pm. The successful candidate will play a key role in supporting the Parish Priest & ensuring the smooth & efficient operation of the parish office on a day-to-day basis. Responsibilities include: Reception; Secretarial services; Office administration; Executive Assistant support to parish priest; Parish communications, incl website; Parish records & Mass preparation. For full details, please visit the CDA's website www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz – Diocesan Services – Staff Vacancies.

Retreat Day for Women

Women of all ages are warmly invited to join the Dominican Sisters of St Cecilia, visiting from Sydney, for a retreat day centred on the Eucharist. Sun 2 Aug, 12:30–6 p.m. at St Luke's Catholic Church (260 Chapel Rd, Flat Bush). Cost: $10, incl afternoon tea. Register at https://events.humanitix.com/retreat-for-women

Concert: From Aotearoa to London—Cất Cánh

A fundraising event for AKL Soprano Anh Thu Nguyen at St Michael's Remuera, 6 Beatrice Rd, 7 p.m. Fri 14 Aug. Anh sang at the Cathedral for many years & currently sings at St Michael's. Music from opera to musical theatre, incl Strauss, Puccini & Lowe. Anh will be joined by sop Antonia Brightwell; 2026 Kiri te Kanawa Song Quest semi-finalist Jack Doyle; & David Kelly on keys. Money raised towards Anh's studies at the prestigious Guildhall of Music & Drama, Lond. Tickets $40, student $30. Tickets & to learn more about Anh & her journey at https://events.humanitix.com/from-aotearoa-to-london-cat-canh Door sales avail.

Mary MacKillop's feast day vigil prayer

Aug 7th, 5.30 p.m. in the Mary MacKillop Chapel. Her actual feast day is 8 Aug, which is a Saturday, so it was thought best to have a vigil prayer the night before. At the Josephite Chapter last year, it was discerned that the sisters' prophetic stance is INCLUSION. The prayer for the vigil will therefore highlight Mary's commitment to inclusion. She actively sought out & served those on the fringes of society, ensuring that no one was denied their inherent dignity or excluded from education based on their background or status. All are welcome to this time of prayer followed by a light tea in the dining room. RSVP to Sr Julian—see flyer in foyer for more info.

Events at Hou Mana Wai Mercy Wellsprings

To register for any events, email Rebecca: office@mercywellsprings.org.nz

The Dark Night of the Soul Thu 6 Aug; 1.30–3.30 or 7–9 p.m. $25 or koha. Facilitated by Ron Lang. Have you ever felt that your spiritual wellspring has dried up & that you've been abandoned by God? Come & explore the experience of John of the Cross and see how the Dark Night of the Soul can be a pathway to your own transformation.

Seasonal Reflections: Winter Tue 11 Aug 9.30 a.m.–2.30 p.m. $35 or koha. Facilitated by Rebecca Gane & Cathryn Wiles-Pickard rsm. The seasons offer us four opportunities to pause and consider the different experiences of our lives, & how we respond to them. The day will begin & end with a short time of teaching and reflection, w 4 hrs in the middle of the day for quiet solitude.

Auckland Inter-Faith Council AGM

Thu 6 Aug, 7.30 p.m., Ponsonby. Please let us know if you can attend. If you would like to be an AIFC member & support our volunteer work with your membership fee, please see www.aucklandinterfaithcouncil.org.nz/membership/aifc-membership/

Divine Mercy Devotion & Mass Fri 7th Aug

7 p.m. St Mary's Parish, 20 Kitenui Ave, Mt Albert. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Chaplet of Mercy Sung, Benediction, Mass, followed by veneration of St Faustina's relic. All Welcome.

Eucharistic Healing Service

Joy Healing Ministry, based in Ōrewa, are holding a Eucharistic Healing Service on Sat 8 Aug, 3–5 p.m., at St John's Church, 180 Centreway Rd, Ōrewa. Visiting Priest Fr Frankie Mulgrew, from Salford Cathedral in Manchester, will be conducting the service, assisted by our own Fr James Mulligan. The service will include Reconciliation. Followed by Mass at 5.30 p.m., then refreshments.

Taizé prayer Fri 14 Aug

Mary MacKillop Chapel, Mission Bay, 7 p.m.

Miha Māori—Mass in te reo Māori

After a brief pause in the monthly Mass schedule due to vandalism, please join to celebrate Miha (Mass) to reclaim our sacred place for prayer & worship. Celebrating Miha & praying together once again on Sat 8th Aug at 5 p.m. at the Hāto Petera Chapel, 103 College Rd, Northcote. You are very welcome. If you have any questions, please email Manuel Beazley— ManuelB@cda.org.nz

Joshua Cath Men's Fellowship

ALL MEN are invited to the Joshua 40-Yr Celebration W/end! Fri 14th eve–Sun 16th Aug midday. Keswick Christian Camp, 5 Cooper Ave, Holden's Bay, Rotorua. Keynote Speaker: Robert Falzon, Leader of Australia's "Men ALIVE" & Author of *Importance of a Present Dad*. $247pp incl accommodation & meals. To Register: https://menforchrist.wufoo.com/forms/joshua-40th-anniversary-celebration-rotorua OR Scan the QR Code on porter attached OR contact Mike Lobo 021 2809285 or Greg Sullivan 021 437747

Annual Pilgrimage to Sacred Josephite Sites

Sat 22 Aug beginning at Mary MacKillop Centre at 10 a.m., finishing 3.30 p.m. This is a very popular event so book in early to ensure a seat on the minibus. See flyer in foyer for more info.

PAMANA: A Musical Journey Through Time

Tickets are on sale now! Come experience the heart & soul of Filipino musical heritage w the Auckland Choral Ensemble. Sat 22 Aug, 6:30 p.m. St Luke's Presbyterian Church, 130 Remuera Rd, Remuera. Get your tickets here: https://events.humanitix.com/ace-pamana-2026

John Pridmore Coming to Auckland

International Catholic speaker & evangelist John Pridmore is coming to Auckland this August for a series of inspiring parish missions. Once involved in London's criminal underworld, John's life was dramatically transformed through an encounter with Jesus Christ. For more than 30 yrs, he has travelled the world sharing his powerful story of conversion, hope & God's mercy, inspiring thousands to rediscover their faith. Each evening will include John's testimony, prayer & an opportunity to deepen your relationship with Christ through Eucharistic Adoration. Mission Dates: Takapuna: 17–19; Ponsonby: 24–26; Manurewa: 31 Aug–2 Sep. All sessions begin at 7 p.m. Everyone is warmly invited to attend. For more details visit www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/john_pridmore_mission_tour/

Eastern Bays Coffee Morning Meet Up

Every 3rd Wednesday of the month, at the Terraces Restaurant, 207 Ridell Rd, Glendowie, in the grounds of St. Andrews Village. All are welcome. Parking avail. Come along 10 a.m. Wed 19th Aug.

The Beginning Experience—ALONE AGAIN ?

A w/end away to help those suffering the heartache of Separation, Divorce or Widowhood, 21–23 Aug. The Beginning Experience is a non-profit org that provides support for the grieving single again, & offers an opportunity to turn the pain of loss into an experience of positive growth. The cost for 2 nights' accommodation, meals, materials & follow-up event is $350. Further info, ph Karena evenings 021802352. beginningexperience.org.nz

Please pray for those who are sick, recovering from surgery, or needing our prayers, especially: **Jim Brown, Matthew Newman, Teresa Gabriola, Lynnette Salvador, Luke Sebastian Catiben, Bernadette Tan, Chonusi William, Teana Jones, Maria Martho, Linus Broughton, Dawn Rocca, Lyn Sparks, Royston Beckham, AS, Margaret Everett, Ian Werder, Maryke Lind, Joy Mitchell, Francis Morais, John Kainuku, Christopher Browne, Serena Coughey, Adelaida Sison, Rita Lopez, Wayne Barden, Mary Bratton, John & Rosa Williams, Michael Wong, Yaroslav Khmel, Rosa Santos, Linus Broughton, Dawn Rocca, Royston Beckham, AS, Margaret Everett, Lyn Sparks, Ian Werder, Maryke Lind, Paul Mulderry, Louise Collins, Judy Hanna, Neira, Thilsi Vern, Ivy Hi, Dina Miranda, Malu Beltran, Vivien Emery, Gil Melling, Teresa Gudex, Corazon Villanueva Misa, Ben Hunt, Angela Robinson, Anne Telles, Kirei Tua, Maurice Robinson, Maura Just, Aaron Ablan, Alice Swann, Dennis Matthew, Marlee Owens, John Sullivan, Joy Agon, Lynn Welsh, Samira & Raj, James L. Cu, Linda Mole, Alberto Olarte, Ana Laura Robles, Brian Murphy, Christopher Hughes, BC, Ana Manjarrez, Sue Bedford, Joe Raymond, Patricia Wright, Sue Wynne Davis, Ann Gordon, Nicholas James, Bonifacio Sanches, Rosita Galarg, Gavin Alexander, Benny Clynes, Eric & Rachel Smith, J. Harrington, Rodolfo Paragas, Virgilia Velasquez, Shannon Kavanagh, Dennis Obillos.**

We remember those who have died recently & whose anniversaries occur at this time**: Janice Foreman, Judy Healy, Arthur Cole, Oralia Sieglaar, Anthony Baptista, Stephen Nuimata, Stephen Orbell, Wendy Peters, Don Matthews, Matthew Chen, Fr David Whelan MHM, Bishop Stuart O'Connell SM, Anne Medrano, Kerry Lock, Mary Farmer, Ron Wilkie, Jim Robie, Kevin O'Connor, Myrna Rebancos, Brian Farrell, Kitty McKewen, Margaret Craddock, Nada Druskovich, Nikola Druskovich, Adriana Veronese, John & Ellen Sullivan, Alois Ayan, Pat McKinnon, Regina Tan, Eileen Hall, Marika Abbosh, Jack Toland Snr, Peter Collins, Louise Butler, Wendy Poland, Letizia Napoli, Enrique Ayllon, Fr Neville Browne, Emma Haulsell, Oscar Miranda, Lorna Bergin, Verma Devlin, Penisula Reuelu, Jeremy Clarke, Hoani Hotene, Fuifui Smith, Leoncio Sambayan, Keanu Michaels, Neptali Marcos, Rosalina Collardo, Anna Mariyanayagam, Quirino Balujadia, Dennis O'Reilly, Lodewijk Widarma, Ronald Grinter, Mahuika Allison, Yohanes Setio, Marutuna Ranapiri, Michael Murphy, Edmundo Oracion, Jocelyn Quinnell, Patricia Caddell, Maria Mununar, Cholita Miranda-Hipolito, Enrico Domingo, Richard Haslett, Wikitoria Anderson, Corazon Jucaban-Cambronero.**